

The Important Dates of the Nineteenth Century in the United States

Compiled by WRIGHT A. PATTERSON.

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Feb. 18—Thomas Jefferson elected president by vote of the house of representatives because of tie in electoral vote between himself and Aaron Burr, the latter becoming vice president. June 10—Tribunal declares war against United States. Dec. 7—President Jefferson inaugurated, sending written messages to congress. Since this date no president has addressed congress orally. The second census was taken in 1800, but the total of the enumeration was not announced until 1801. It was 3,938,483.

1802. March 16—Law passed establishing military academy at West Point. Same law reduced standard of army from 10,000 to 10,000 men. April 14—Present naturalization laws passed. April—Library of congress first catalogued. It contained 364 volumes and nine maps. May—Washington, D. C., incorporated as a city.

1803. Feb. 19—Ohio admitted to the union. April 30—Territory of Louisiana purchased from France for \$15,000,000. Territory consists of 1,171,934 square miles.

1804. Feb.—Impeachment trial of Samuel Chase, associate justice of the supreme court, began. He was acquitted in March, 1805. May 14—Lewis and Clark expedition started from Mississippi river for Pacific coast. July 11—Alexander Hamilton killed in duel with Aaron Burr at Weehawken on the Hudson.

Sept. 25—Twelfth amendment to constitution adopted.

1805. March 4—Thomas Jefferson and George Clinton inaugurated.

June 3—Treaty of peace signed between Tripoli and the United States.

June 30—Territory of Michigan formed from Indiana.

1806. March 29—Congress authorized the building of a national road from Cumberland, Md., to the Ohio river. The tailors formed first trade union in the United States.

1807. July—American ports closed to the British and British ships ordered from American waters.

Aug. 11—Successful voyage of Robert Fulton's steamboat Clermont from New York to Albany.

Dec. 21—Embargo act passed forbidding American vessels to leave for foreign ports.

1808. Jan. 1—Act prohibiting importation of slaves into country became law.

March 4—James Madison and George Clinton inaugurated.

March 15—Embargo act, excepting as to Great Britain and France, repealed.

1810. April 30—A general post office established in Washington under the postmaster general.

May 10—First agricultural exhibition in United States held at Georgetown, D. C.

June 2—Third census taken; population, 7,260,112.

1811. Nov. 7—Battle of Tippecanoe fought by Gen. Harrison.

1812. April 8—Louisiana admitted to the union. June 18—U. S. declared war against England.

June 26—Strength of the regular army raised to 35,000.

Aug. 15—Fort Dearborn massacre on present site of Chicago.

Nov. 4—John C. Calhoun made his first appearance in congress.

1813. March 4—James Madison and Elbridge Gerry inaugurated.

Aug. 21—Indian massacre at Fort Mifflin. Women and children at Fort Mifflin.

Sept. 10—Com. O. H. Perry defeated British squadron at Put-in-Bay, Lake Erie.

1814. April 14—The embargo act repealed by congress.

Aug. 25—Washington burned by the British. Sept. 13—"The Star Spangled Banner" written by Francis Scott Key while detained on board the British ship Minden during the attack on Fort Mifflin.

At Baltimore. It was first sung at a Baltimore theater in October of the same year.

Nov. 25—Vice President Elbridge Gerry died at Washington, aged 70.

Dec. 24—Treaty of peace signed between Great Britain and United States at Ghent, Belgium.

1815. Jan. 8—British defeated by Americans at New Orleans.

Feb. 15—U. S. declared war against Algiers. June 26—Peace treaty signed between United States and Algiers.

1816. April 10—United States bank chartered by congress for \$35,000,000 capital, \$7,000,000 paid up.

April 27—First fire insurance law passed by congress.

July 5—Ice a quarter of a century thick in the Chesapeake Bay, New York and New England.

July 14—Mexico acknowledged independence of Texas.

June 15—Arkansas admitted to the union. June 23—Ex-President James Madison died at Montpelier, Va., aged 85.

Nov. 8—Thirteenth presidential election. Martin Van Buren elected president with 212,623 popular votes and 73 electoral votes.

Nov. 22—First submarine cable laid by Prof. Morse in New York harbor.

1841. April 4—President Harrison died at age 68. April 15—President Tyler took oath of office as president.

July 6—Act to distribute money from sales of public lands among the states passed.

July 15—Independence of Egypt acknowledged by Turkey.

1842. May 2—Col. John C. Fremont's first expedition started for Rocky mountains.

Aug. 14—End of Indian war in Florida proclaimed.

Aug. 20—Ashburton treaty, settling Maine boundary dispute between United States and England, ratified by senate.

Oct. 18—First submarine cable laid by Prof. Morse in New York harbor.

1843. Jan. 11—Francis S. Key, author of "Star Spangled Banner," died at Baltimore, aged 63.

1823. Dec. 2—Proclamation by President Monroe declared that for the future the American continents were not to be considered as subjects for colonization by any European power. This constitutes the "Monroe doctrine."

1824. March 13—Convention signed between Great Britain and United States for suppression of slave trade. Aug. 15—Gen. Lafayette landed in New York for visit to America.

Nov. 9—Tenth presidential election. Of popular vote John Quincy Adams received 106,321; Andrew Jackson, 152,899; H. Crawford, 47,285; Henry Clay, 47,087. No candidate for president received a majority of electoral votes and election devolved upon house of representatives. John C. Calhoun elected vice president.

1825. Feb. 9—House of representatives voted for president, each state having one vote. John Quincy Adams received 12, Andrew Jackson, 7, and William Crawford, 4.

June 17—Corner stone of Bunker Hill monument laid by Lafayette.

Oct. 1—Eric canal opened from Buffalo to Albany.

1826. May 10—American Home Missionary society organized in New York.

July 4—Ex-President John Adams, Quincy, Mass., and Thomas Jefferson, Monticello, Va., died.

Sept. 12—William Morgan abducted from Canandaigua, N. Y. This gave rise to the anti-masonic party that played a prominent part in national politics for a short time.

1827. First railroad in United States began operations. It extended from Quincy, Mass., to the Neponset river and was operated by horse power.

May 19—Tariff revision bill, placing high duties on woolen and cotton goods, approved by president.

Nov. 4—Ex-President John Adams received 178 electoral votes; John Quincy Adams received 512,199 popular and 83 electoral votes.

1829. March 9—William T. Barry appointed postmaster general in Jackson cabinet. Previous to this time the postmaster general was not considered a member of the cabinet.

Aug. 8—First railway locomotive operated in America started at Honesdale, Pa.

1830. Jan. 25—Robert V. Hayne, S. C., in speech in congress on Fugate resolution on public lands announced nullification doctrine. May 24—First 14 miles of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad opened.

Sept.—Anti-masonic party held the first national political convention in United States at Philadelphia.

1831. Jan. 15—South Carolina railroad, first passenger and freight railroad in United States, opened for traffic.

July 4—Ex-President James Monroe died in New York, aged 73.

July 26—First successful reaper, invention of Cyrus H. McCormick, tested at Samuel C. Tavern, Va.

Chloroform discovered by James Guthrie, of Sack Harbor, N. Y.

Matches first used in United States.

1832. March—Black Hawk war began. June 22—First death from cholera in United States occurred at New York.

July 13—Source of Mississippi discovered by Henry R. Schoolcraft.

July 14—Tariff measures of 1828 partially repealed.

Nov. 13—Twelfth presidential election. Andrew Jackson received 87,000 popular and 219 electoral votes, and Henry Clay 30,000 popular and 49 electoral votes.

Nov. 13—Charles Carroll, last surviving signer of declaration of independence, died at Baltimore, aged 86.

Nov. 19—Congress passed act of C. C. adopted resolutions declaring tariff acts null and void.

1833. March 16—South Carolina repealed nullification resolution in convention. Sept. 20—President Jackson directed removal of National Bank to be deposited in state banks.

Nov. 13—Great meteoric display visible in all parts of the world.

Dec. 6—American Anti-Slavery society organized in Philadelphia.

1834. June 30—Indian territory established by act of congress.

Dec.—President in annual message announced extinguishment of national debt.

1835. Dec. 16—Business portion of New York City destroyed by fire; 64 buildings destroyed, loss \$10,000,000.

Dec. 28—Seminole Indian war began. Thomas Davenport, of Brattleboro, Vt., built first electric railway motor at Springfield, Mass.

1836. March 2—Texas declared its independence. March 2—Massacre at the Alamo, San Antonio, Tex., by Mexicans under Santa Anna.

May 14—Mexico acknowledged independence of Texas.

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Feb. 23—Great comet seen at noon by naked eye in North America. June 17—Bunker Hill monument dedicated.

1844. May 27—First telegram sent over a land line from Washington to Baltimore. June 7—Joe and Hiram Smith, Mormons, murdered by mob at Nauvoo, Ill.

July 3—Treaty of commerce between United States and China signed.

Nov. 12—Fifteenth presidential election. James K. Polk received 170 electoral and 1,353,834 popular votes. Henry Clay received 105 electoral and 1,257,653 popular votes.

1845. Jan. 22—Congress appointed first Tuesday following first Monday in November national election day.

Feb. 28—Texas annexed by joint resolution. March 3—Congress fixed postage on letters at 5 cents for 300 miles or under and 10 cents for over that distance.

June 8—James H. Hammond, of South Carolina, admitted to the union. June 8—Ex-President Andrew Jackson died, aged 78.

Dec. 29—Texas admitted to the union as a state.

1846. April 15—Hostilities between Mexico and United States began by capture of small force of U. S. troops by Mexican troops.

May 11—President Polk announced that state of war existed between United States and Mexico.

June 15—Treaty signed with Great Britain settling the Oregon boundary dispute.

July 6—Com. John D. Sloat, U. S. N., occupied Monterey, Cal., and declared country annexed to United States.

Sept.—Elias Howe patented first successful sewing machine.

Dec. 28—Iowa admitted to the union.

1847. Feb. 23—Battle of Buena Vista fought; 20,000 Mexicans defeated by 5,000 Americans.

July 2—Salt Lake City founded by the Mormons.

Sept. 13—City of Mexico occupied by American troops.

During the year the cylinder printing press was invented by Richard M. Hoe.

1848. Jan. 19—Gold discovered near Coloma, Cal., by James W. Wicks.

Feb. 2—Treaty of peace between United States and Mexico signed at Guadalupe Hidalgo. United States paid Mexico \$18,000,000 for New Mexico and California.

Feb. 23—Ex-President John Quincy Adams died at Washington, aged 81.

May 24—Fifteenth presidential election. Zachary Taylor received 163 electoral votes and Lewis Cass, of Kentucky, 127 electoral votes.

Dec. 15—Postal treaty signed with Great Britain.

1849. March 3—Department of Interior created by congress.

June 15—Ex-President James K. Polk died at Nashville, Tenn., aged 54.

1850. April 19—Bulwer-Clayton treaty for joint occupancy of canal across Central America signed.

June 1—Seventh census taken; population, 23,191,876.

July 3—President Taylor died at Washington, aged 66.

Sept. 9—California admitted to the union. Sept. 20—"Omni-bus" bill passed by congress.

1851. March 3—Letter postage reduced to 3 cents if prepaid; 5 cents if not, and double rate for longer distances.

April 29—Trial of electric locomotive built by Westinghouse and O. R. Y. It attained a speed of 19 miles per hour.

Oct. 1—Cyrus H. McCormick's railroad opened from New York to Albany.

1852. June 29—Henry Clay died at Washington, aged 75.

Nov. 2—Seventeenth presidential election held. Franklin Pierce received 554 electoral votes, and Gen. Winfield Scott 42 electoral votes.

1853. March 24—Oath of office as vice president administered to William R. King by Consul Sharkey at Lumbre, Cuba. Allowed by special act of congress.

April 18—Vice President William R. King died at Cahawba, Ala., aged 67.

May 2—Treaty provided for purchase of territory south of the Gila river from Mexico approved. Extent of purchase, 63,535 square miles; consideration to Mexico, \$10,000,000.

Chicago and New York connected by railway.

1854. March 31—First commercial and diplomatic treaty with Japan concluded by U. S. May 30—Kansas-Nebraska bill passed by congress. It repealed Missouri compromise act of 1820.

1855. Feb. 10—Rights of citizenship to children of citizens born in foreign countries granted by act of congress.

Sept. 15—Archibald Menzies, an archipelagic explorer, returned by Lieut. Haden, U. S. N., at the island of Disco, Greenland.

Jan. 24—Pro-slavery legislature in Kansas recognized by President Pierce. Pro-state government attempt to establish free state government at Leavenworth.

Nov. 4—Eighteenth presidential election. James Buchanan received 174 electoral votes and John C. Fremont 14 and Millard Fillmore 8.

H. Bessemer invented process of making steel by passing cold air over molten iron. Known as the "Bessemer process."

1857. Jan. 6—Free state legislature in Kansas organized.

March 6—Dred Scott case decided against plaintiff by United States supreme court.

May 2—Kansas-Nebraska massacre perpetrated near Cedar City, Utah. Thirty families practically annihilated by Indians and Mormons.

1858. May 11—Minnesota admitted to the union. Aug. 21—First street deposit boxes for letters used in U. S.

Aug. 5—First Atlantic cable completed. Oct. 9—Donatelli's comet attained its greatest brilliancy.

Oct. 9—First overland mail from San Francisco reached St. Louis. Time, 34 days, 18 hours.

1859. Jan. 4—New senate chamber occupied. Feb. 14—Oregon admitted to the union.

May 30—Kansas admitted to the union. Oct. 18—John Brown captured by government troops under Col. R. E. Lee.

Nov. 19—John Brown hanged at Charlestown, N. Y., aged 70.

Dec. 2—John Brown hanged at Charlestown, N. Y., aged 70.

1860. May 15—Abraham Lincoln nominated for president on fourth ballot at Chicago.

June 1—First presidential election. Population, 23,191,876.

Nov. 4—Nineteenth presidential election held. Abraham Lincoln received 1,865,908 popular and 180 electoral votes.

Nov. 4—Black Friday. C. Breckinridge, 72 electoral and 847,000 popular votes; John Fremont, 30 electoral and 557,000 popular votes; Stephen A. Douglas, 12 electoral and 1,375,157 popular votes.

Dec. 4—President Buchanan in annual message to congress said southern states had no legal right to secede and government no power to prevent secession.

Dec. 20—South Carolina seceded.

1861. Jan. 9—Steamer Star of the West with reinforcements for Fort Sumter fired upon by South Carolina troops from Morris Island.

Jan. 9—Mississippi seceded.

Jan. 10—Florida seceded.

Jan. 19—Alabama seceded.

Jan. 26—Louisiana seceded. Kansas admitted to the union.

Feb. 1—Confederate congress met at Montgomery, Ala. Six states represented.

Feb. 3—Jefferson Davis chosen president and Alexander H. Stephens vice president of the Confederate Congress.

April 12—Fort Sumter fired upon. First gun fired by Edmund Ruffin of Virginia.

April 14—Fort Sumter surrendered.

April 15—Present capital of Virginia moved from Richmond to Alexandria.

April 17—Virginia seceded.

April 19—President proclaimed blockade of ports.

May 6—Arkansas seceded.

May 21—North Carolina seceded.

June 2—Tennessee seceded.

July 21—Federal troops defeated at battle of Bull Run.

Nov. 8—Confederate envoys Mason and Slidell captured on the steamer Trent, by Capt. Wilkes, U. S. N.

1862. Jan. 1—Government suspended specie payments.

Jan. 6—Fort Henry, Tenn., captured by Gen. Grant and Com. Foote.

Feb. 16—Fort Donelson surrendered to Gen. Grant.

March 8—U. S. frigate Congress and U. S. sloop-of-war Cumberland destroyed by Merrimack at Hampton Roads.

March 9—Battle between Monitor and Merrimack at Hampton Roads.

April 4—Admiral Farragut occupied New Orleans.

May 15—Department of agriculture established.

May 20—Homestead act approved by the president.

June 20—Slavery forever prohibited in the territories.

June 25—July 2—Seven days' fighting. Battle of Gettysburg. Confederate army defeated before Richmond.

July 1—President approved act for building railroad and telegraph line from Missouri river to Pacific ocean.

July 24—Ex-President Martin Van Buren died at Lindenwald, N. Y., aged 80.

Aug. 13— Sioux Indians attacked settlements of Minnesota.

Sept. 3—Confederate forces crossed the Potomac river into Maryland.

Sept. 10—Confederate defeated at Antietam. They retreated into Virginia the following day.

Dec. 17—West Virginia admitted to the union to date from June 20, 1863.

1863. Jan. 1—President Lincoln issued proclamation freeing slaves in Confederate states.

Feb. 25—National currency secured by U. S. bonds provided for.

Mar. 2—General Grant captured Vicksburg.

July 1—Confederate army, numbering 125,000 men, defeated Union army, numbering 73,000 men.

July 4—Vicksburg surrendered to Gen. Grant.

Sept. 1—Samuel Houston, Texas hero, died at Huntsville, Tex., aged 70.

Sept. 15—President Lincoln suspended writ of habeas corpus.

Sept. 19—Federal army defeated by Confederates at Chickamauga.

Oct. 24—Confederates at Orchard Knob, Missionary Ridge and Lookout mountain.

1864. March 10—Gen. Grant placed in command of the federal army.

May 4—Federal army, numbering 130,000 men, crossed the Rapidan to attack the Confederates.

May 5—Struggle between federal and Confederate armies in the Wilderness and at Spotsylvania.

May 12—Federal army lost 40,000 men.

May 17—Postal money order system established.

May 19—Nathaniel Hawthorne died at Plymouth, N. H., aged 60.

June 1—Federal cruiser Kearsarge captured Confederate cruiser Alabama off Cherbourg, France.

July 16—Gold reached the maximum, 285 cents.

Sept. 2—Atlanta captured by Gen. Sherman.

Oct. 1—Nevada admitted to the union by proclamation.

Oct. 18—Twentieth presidential election. Lincoln received 55 electoral votes, and Gen. Winfield Scott 42 electoral votes.

Nov. 14—Sherman's march to the sea began.

Dec. 21—Savannah captured by Gen. Sherman.

1865. Feb. 18—Gen. Lee placed in command of all Confederate forces.

March 3—Confederate debt disowned by act of congress.

March 4—Confederate congress adjourned sine die.

April 1—Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox.

April 14—President Lincoln shot by J. Wilkes Booth in Ford's theater, Washington.

April 15—President Lincoln died at 7:30 a. m. Vice President Johnson took oath of office as president same day